Progress in Selecting Annual Ryegrass for Resistance to Gray Leaf Spot. (C01-prine102543-Poster)

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Abstract:

Until the 1997-98 growing season, gray leaf spot (Pyricularia grisea) (GLS) disease showed up in isolated sites of annual ryegrass (Lolium multiflorum) in spring causing severe blast damage. In the fall of 1997, GLS appeared in late fall and persisted through the winter until the ryegrass matured. A single classic disease spot on a leaf in the fall was found to progress over winter to death of the plant next spring. The disease develops faster under warm conditions and slows down during cold conditions. The disease has recurred each season and has been observed on ryegrass grown across north Florida from Marianna to Gainesville. Damage to ryegrass from GLS has varied from light to heavy over the seasons, but there has been little blast damage. Besides rating GLS in rust nurseries and cutting trials, GLS susceptible plants were rogued from our recurrent selection crossing nurseries. At first little change was noticed in GLS susceptible plants, but now, after several cycles of selection, improved GLS resistance is seen in the new ryegrass populations. The GLS resistance of various annual ryegrass genotypes, some examples of GLS damage on annual ryegrass and examples of increased GLS resistance due to selection will be presented.

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